

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 02810 231916Z

54

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 231900Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2508

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 2810

EXDIS

JERUSALEM FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR, XF, IS, LE

SUBJECT : LEBANESE FEAR OF ISRAELI OCCUPATION

REF: BEIRUT 5777, TEL AVIV 2798

1. I HAVE NO INFORMATION TO SUGGEST THAT "ISRAELI INVASION AND OCCUPATION OF SOUTH LEBANON IS IMMINENT." HOWEVER, AS WE INDICATED EARLIER TODAY IN TEL AVIV REFTEL, WE BELIEVE IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR U.S. TO DISCUSS MOUNTING SPIRAL OF VIOLENCE WITH BOTH GOI AND GOL.

2. I THINK GOI'S RESPONSE RE ITS CURRENT INTENTIONS TOWARD LEBANON IS PREDICTABLE, BASED ON GOI'S ANSWER TO OUR APPROACH LAST MONTH FOLLOWING KIRYAT SHMONA ATROCITY. AS EBAN TOLD ME APRIL 13 (TEL AVIV 2185, BEING REPEATED JERUSALEM, JIDDA, AND USUN), GOI'S POLICY IS NOT BASED ON PRONOUNCEMENTS OR INDIVIDUAL LEADERS SUCH AS DAYAN BUT IS CENTERED ON RECIPROCITY; AS LONG AS FEDAYEEN INFILTRATING FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON COMMIT TERRORIST

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ACTS INSIDE ISRAEL, IDF WILL RETALIATE. EBAN ADDED HE HOPED

CIVILIAN POPULATION OF SOUTH LEBANON, RATHER THAN JUST MOVING AWAY, WOULD PUT PRESSURE ON GOL TO CONTROL FEDAYEEN (HE DREW ANALOGY HERE WITH SITUATION IN JORDAN BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1970).

3. NOW THAT MAALOT TRAGEDY HAS BEEN ADDED ONTO KIRYAT SHMONA, I WOULD EXPECT ISRAELIS TO PURSUE THIS POLICY WITH STILL GREATER DETERMINATION. HOWEVER, EBAN'S APRIL 13 DESCRIPTION OF GOI POLICY DID NOT SUGGEST THAT OCCUPATION OF SOUTHERN LEBANON (AS OPPOSED TO BRIEF IDF INCURSIONS) WAS CONTEMPLATED AS SERIOUS OPTION. I BELIEVE SITUATION WOULD HAVE TO GET CONSIDERABLY WORSE BEFORE THIS WOULD CHANGE.

KEATING

SECRET

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Message Attributes

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